An Open Letter to Milo Winter

Exactly What it Says on the Tin #milowinter #ageofscorpius A photo from the author's personal collection — Cool place, you should visit. An Open Letter to Milo Winter — Hey, Milo, you d...

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Exactly What it Says on the Tin

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An Open Letter to Milo Winter —

Hey, Milo, you don't know me, although well, everyone knows you — or at least the character of "Audra" you presented to the world. Let's just say I'm a fellow indie

author who also debuted in 2025. But that's not important and not the purpose of this open letter.

I study history. I read about the impossible choices people had to make. I have a ringside seat to impossible choices being made under pressure every day. Now, you have to make an impossible choice.

First off, I think I get why you ran and went to ground. Your face and your words, endlessly repeated across dozens or hundreds of commentary videos about your debut's crash and burn. The parasocial dogpile. People dissecting you under ring lights. Total strangers speculating on your life. Others using you to boost their own profiles. And, yeah, maybe I'm guilty of rubbernecking too, I won't defend it.

The fact is you put yourself out in the public, and the public reacted in a way that was not good for your mental or physical health. So, you ran.

But, you didn't consider if that choice might hurt others.

Some people have accused me of being insensitive for throwing a spotlight on your immigration status in Finland. Fair charge, neither of us can control how others interpret us. They might not be entirely wrong. However, I saw it as necessary, a duty to warn, where silence would be complicity.

Is that a self-serving justification? Maybe. It doesn't change the outcome.

Milo, if you really are in Finland, and you are doing what I suspect you are, *you are going to get hurt*. And you are going to hurt real people around you — like Sauli, like Elrose. And the impact will last for years.

If some American posted a video on YouTube like, “AMA I moved out of the county on a whim and now I’m getting paid under the table in Japan,” the first dozen comments would be, “Bro, you’re not supposed to be doing that.”

First rule of the Fight Club is *don’t talk about the Fight Club.*

Milo. My man — you talked about the Fight Club.

You might not be waiting tables in Helsinki, but the same idea applies, and Finnish immigration will treat it the same way.

You still got a little time. Come clean about your status, fix your finances, apply for the right permits the right way. Resolve whatever’s going on with Smidge. *Then* you’ll have the peace to write your book.

The true character of a person is revealed under moments of pressure. You can choose to prioritize your book over your safety, and the safety of others, and that reveals who you are. Likewise, you can choose to back away from that cliff.

If you choose not to, then Finnish immigration will want a chat, and I actually don’t want that for you. I don’t enjoy writing about a living person’s potential annhilation. My inner Jacobin regards Schengen immigration law to be inherited aristocratic privilege for the modern age — but I’m not in a position to do anything about it. Hence, I can only offer my warnings and my open letter.

Studying history has taught me this:

- Not every clean choice is moral.
- Not every moral choice is clean.

- Sometimes the right choice is the one you want the least.

Keep watching the clock, Milo. The next move is yours. If you want to drop me a line, I'm not that hard to find. Any message will be kept in the strictest confidence. Now go do what's right.

Anatole Ternaux
11 December 2025
Writing from nowhere particularly important in the Mojave Desert

P.S. — Where would I have run if I were in your shoes? Honestly? Kenya, Senegal, or Namibia. Why Africa? Let's just say I wouldn't stand out so much.

That, for now, is going to be my last word on the whole situation, unless some other vector comes up on my radar. I expect to get dogpiled for expressing more empathy for Winter than some people believes he deserves. You can read all the other entries I've made grouped under the "age-of-scorpius" tag here.

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